

Brooding of *Ischnochiton (Haploplax) lentiginosa* (Sowerby, 1840) in New South Wales

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A number of species of chitons in various parts of the world has been recorded as brooding their young. Recently Turner (1978) reporting brooding, or the possibility of it, in 5 species of chitons in Tasmania. To date there has been no published record of the phenomenon on the Australian mainland.

During the period of May 22 to 27, 1979, I collected chitons at Long Reef, Collaroy, N.S.W. Among the specimens taken were approximately 100 of the common mid-tidal species *Ischnochiton (Haploplax) lentiginosa* (Sowerby, 1840). The specimens were checked and 2 were found carrying masses of ova in both branchial grooves and one had fully metamorphosed, 8 valved brood in both branchial grooves (Fig. 1). Prof. Dr K.J. Gotting of Giesen, West Germany, accompanied me on one of the four trips to Long Reef. Of the 90 specimens of *I. lentiginosa* he collected one had brood. The reef was revisited on June 9-11, 1979. Individuals of *I. lentiginosa* were examined in the field and all non-brooding specimens were released. Six individuals were brooding; one had eggs and 5 had developing young. The 9 brooding specimens I collected were all at least 9.5 mm long (maximum 14.0 mm). The number of brood ranged from 4 to 140, with most individuals having 50 to 60.

Representative brooding individuals have been deposited in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart, Australian Museum, Sydney, National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne, South Australian Museum, Adelaide and the Western Australian Museum, Perth.

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Reference.

Turner, E. 1978. Brooding of chitons in Tasmania. *J. Malac. Soc. Aust.* 4: 43-47.

